



October 23, 2020

Hello, Scottsdale Unified Families.

This week's update provides you with more information on how the District is navigating the current situation with COVID-19. While most schools continued to fare well this past week, other schools are now highly impacted by the effects of COVID-19 in the student population and the need to quarantine not only their families, but the families of their close contacts, as well. The trend in the metrics in those areas of our District has triggered the need to begin preparing for the potential return to virtual learning where substantial community spread is occurring. Our planning will absolutely take into account transitioning schools within the hardest hit zip codes. We will certainly avoid closing campuses in the portion of our district where the health metrics remain in the middle of the moderate category.

COVID-19 Case Dashboard

Our COVID-19 case dashboard has been updated today with a new look. The cases numbers on this page are updated each week on Fridays. Take a look at the most recent data at www.susd.org/Dashboard. While you're online, take a look around the COVID-19 section of our website at www.susd.org/COVID19, where you can view trends in health metrics by zip code.

Metrics by Zip Code

This week's update of COVID-19 cases by zip code indicates that there is the potential to have to pause on-campus learning at schools within **85251, 85018 and 85253**. These zip codes are over the 100 positive cases per 100,000 people, one of the main public health metrics used to track community spread of coronavirus. This would put them in the red for that benchmark if they are over 100 next week as well. The schools located within these zip codes are: Echo Canyon, Navajo, Pima, Arcadia, Hopi, Ingleside, Tavan, Chaparral, Cherokee, and Kiva.

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) provides the following guidance on its website at <https://www.maricopa.gov/5594/School-Metrics>:

- When an area's community spread (any benchmark) has gone from Minimal to Substantial OR Moderate to Substantial, MCDPH recommends that school decision-makers begin planning a transition from Traditional or Hybrid learning to Virtual with onsite support the first week that the data changes.
- If the geographic area remains at the higher level of community spread for a second consecutive week, MCDPH recommends that schools shift to Virtual with onsite support. If the second week of data reverts back to the lower level of community spread, no change to the current learning scenario is recommended.

Given these results, we are starting conversations about a potential shift to virtual learning, with onsite support, for the above-named schools within the zip codes experiencing higher levels of infection. We want to ensure that we are doing our part to reduce community spread of COVID-19 while also continue to meet the educational needs (academic as well as social-emotional) of our students.

Thoughts or Feedback? Please Use Let's Talk

We understand that you have many questions and concerns, especially if your student attends one of the previously mentioned impacted schools. In order to efficiently respond to you directly, and to ensure that your ideas, thoughts and concerns are included in reports to the SUSD Governing Board, we ask that you please funnel your communication to the District through our [Let's Talk](http://www.susd.org/LetsTalk) portal, available at www.susd.org/LetsTalk.

Planning for Second Semester

As we progress through this first semester, we are learning what works and what we can optimize as we head into the second semester of the school year. We recognize the importance and value the input of our principals, teachers and parents, and they will be included in these planning conversations.

Reminder: No Eating on the School Bus

If your student rides the bus, we could use your help in reminding students to avoid eating on the bus. Given that students and drivers are in close proximity for an extended period of time, and eating creates increased potential for virus spread, we are asking that students wait to eat until they are dropped off. Thank you for your assistance in helping keep our students and bus drivers healthy.

Updated 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

The second quarter early release days on Oct. 28 and Nov. 18 have been cancelled. In order to optimize student instructional time, students will attend school on Oct. 28 and Nov. 18 and follow their typical 2nd quarter schedule. The updated school year calendars are posted on the District's website at www.susd.org/Calendar, where you may download a printable copy in English and Spanish.

Have Questions About COVID-19?

If you have questions about COVID-19 and how it relates to your student(s), MCDPH has three options available to assist you and answer your questions:

- **Parent/Guardian FAQs:** This [online resource](#) is the best place to start for information.
- **Call 2-1-1:** Speak to someone directly using the new MCDPH hotline. Dial 2-1-1, then press option 6 for COVID-19, and then option 3 to connect to a Parent Hotline staff member.
- **Email MCDPH:** Submit your questions through this [email form](#).

Thank you for your continued support of your student, and for your cooperation with our health and safety guidelines.

Respectfully,

Scottsdale Unified School District [Leadership Team](#)

P.S. Remember ... Our ability to remain open for on-campus learning and extracurricular activities is directly tied to everyone's behavior in the community.

- We expect staff and students to wear masks while on any school campus, school bus or other SUSD property.
- Hand washing, physical distancing and cleaning are some of the other activities we are undertaking each day to make sure students and employees are safe.
- We encourage you and any family members to remain in the vehicle when dropping off/picking up students.
- If someone does step out of a vehicle on school grounds, they are expected to wear a mask, in compliance with the [Maricopa County regulation](#) requiring face coverings.
- Recognize any [symptoms of illness](#) in your child and report them to the school nurse.
- **Do not send your child to school if they are exhibiting any signs of COVID-like illness or have been exposed to COVID-19 or have been confirmed to have COVID-19.**